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THE AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN

Australia U.F.O. Bulletin



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U.F.O. AUSTRALIAN BULLETIN





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WELCOME:

The Society welcomes reports of unusual Aerial Phenomena and evaluates each report on its own merits and if requested, reports will be held in the strictest confidence. The Society exchanges information with many similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public, available information on the subject, which includes local, interstate and the latest overseas developments in its quarterly publication "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin," posted to all members. Address all communications to:

**V.U.F.O.R.S.,
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Society History

1957

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered — this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

The Society had held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in General Meetings and maintains the largest U.F.O. library in the Southern Hemisphere, making books available by post, to members throughout the Commonwealth.

Membership of this Society — which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere — is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

THE AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN.

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June, 1984.

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E D I T O R I A L.

"They may be among us . . . even now", claimed an anonymous lecturer from the Institute of Cosmic Knowledge, 1957.

Dave Schad of the Fort Lewis "Ranger" says "Don't laugh because it may be true. We just don't know it yet "

The commencement of modern day sightings occurred when American businessman, Kenneth Arnold was flying his small 'plane near Mount Ranier in the State of Washington, USA, and reported seeing a number of disc-shaped objects nimbly dodging among the foothills, in a steady and constant formation. When he was trying to describe their motion to the press, he said they looked like pebbles or saucers skimming across water, and the foolish expression 'Flying Saucers' was coined.

That particular sighting did a great deal to stir interest in the subject world wide.

Since that time there have been many reports of visitations and even abductions by space entities bringing messages of various kinds. Astronomers, pilots, astronauts and people of other sciences, who are well qualified to identify these aerial objects are at a loss to explain them satisfactorily and at an even greater loss to speculate as to their point of origin.

It is with regret that we bring to your attention, the recent passing - January 22nd, 1984 - of this pioneer of UFO research at the age of 68.

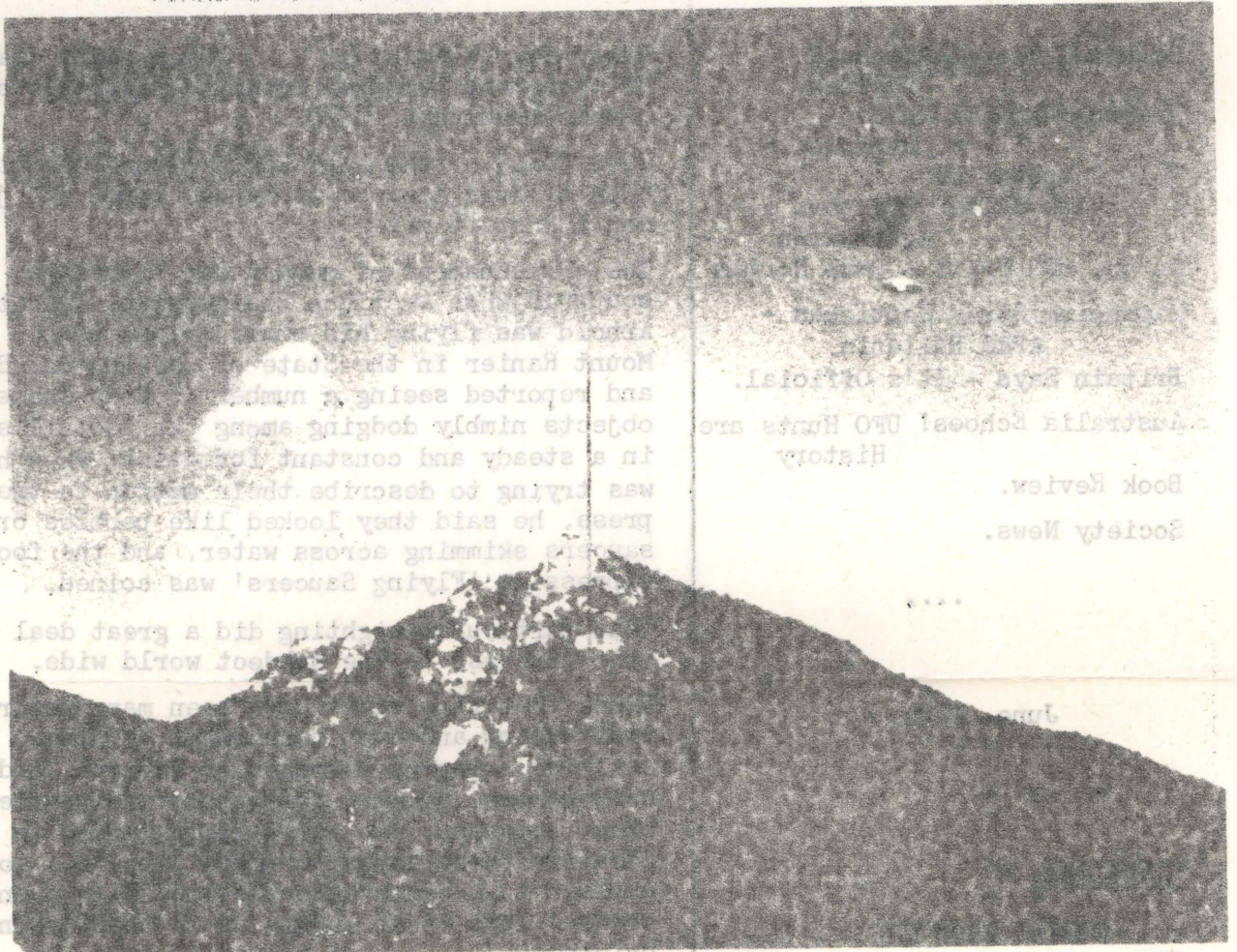
Of one thing we are certain, that UFO interest and research continues, even though the major powers claim to possess "crashed saucers" and in some cases entities, this UFO problem has been with us since beyond BC. and we still appear to be none the wiser as to the whither, whence and why of these objects.

VUFORS will hold a DISCUSSION
NIGHT in the Supper Room of the
ROYAL SOCIETY, 9 VICTORIA STREET,
MELBOURNE at 8p.m. on MONDAY,
6th AUGUST. Come along, bring
a friend and support your Society,
buy past publications, a T/shirt
or even a nice warm windcheater.

CANADIAN U.F.O. PHOTOGRAPH - TAKEN OCTOBER, 1981

This photograph and its related information has been taken from an "Unpublished Technical Report" by Richard T. Haines.

Copyright 1983.

ABSTRACT

This report presents a review of investigative activities surrounding a purported unidentified flying object (UFO) photograph. This photograph was taken on October 8, 1981 at about 11.00 am local time on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Also presented are the major findings of an analysis of: (a) the photographer, (b) the camera, (c) the original negative, (d) the photography site, and (e) various other related subjects. It was found that: (1) while neither adult present at the site witnessed the aerial object the original negative does contain a "real" image of a symmetrical, well defined object that corresponds to the color enlargement (print), (2) there is no evidence whatsoever of a hoax or deliberate fraud, (3) the camera and lens were not the source of the anomalous image (i.e. UFO disc form), (4) while it isn't possible to determine the distance to the airborne object, (a) computer enhancements suggest that the object is not a Frisbee of known design, (b) even a very small diameter object like a Frisbee would have been more than 32 feet from the camera, and (5) the object that was photographed was very likely not any type of Frisbee and remains unidentified at this time.

continued.....

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

After studying a number of alleged UFO photos I learned that a photograph is only as credible as the person who took the picture. Therefore, it became a truism with me that I should never accept a UFO photograph without also accepting the responsibility for a good deal of investigation about the person who took it. In addition, I learned that some very good looking UFO photos can be produced by well meaning people using poor photographic techniques or faulty equipment or film. Finally, I learned that the finished photographic negative may contain anomalous images due to electrostatic discharges, poor developing procedures, old chemicals, or a variety of other things. Therefore, when I was handed this particular set of two photos at the 1983 annual symposium of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in Pasadena, California, many things ran through my mind. If I accepted them for scientific study it would call for a lot of time and energy and personal expense. I did not accept this responsibility lightly.

So here is the fundamental background on how I came to receive first two standard sized, (jumbo) color positive prints and (later) the original negative from the photographer.

CONCLUSIONS

Several general conclusions can be drawn from the present analysis of the negative, the photographer, the site, and other factors.

First, the aerial disc-like object seen in the present photograph is not an optical flaw but an actual image. Of course there is the possibility that a photographic laboratory could have created this disc image on a duplicate film strip and then mailed it to the witness as being the original. This would seem to be a very elaborate and expensive trick to play and raises many other difficult questions.

Second, the photometric and geometric features of the disc image are consistent with a three-dimensional object in the sky some distance from the photographer and reflecting sunlight and other ambient light as would a three dimensional model. Furthermore, calculations show that if the disc were as small as 9" diameter it would have had to be over 32 feet from the camera. If it were at the same distance as the mountain it would have been over 172 feet in diameter. However, the exceptional clarity of the atmosphere makes it almost impossible to determine actual separation distance with any precision.

Third, the high credibility of the witness and the overall consistency of the story which surrounds the taking of this photograph (and others) all tends to support the factuality of their not having seen the disc in the sky. The minification effect of the through-the-lens aiming would help explain why the disc wasn't noticed at the time of the photo was taken.

Fourth, no evidence whatsoever was found to support the hypothesis that the negative was a purposeful deception on the part of the witness, regardless of the nature of the alleged deception. To the contrary, no motive(s) could be found for producing such a novel image - including the need for social acceptance, money, or other ego needs.

Fifth, use of "traditional" UFO field investigative techniques proved adequate here. It was not found necessary to implement any new or untried methods.

CHECK THE BOX! YOUR SUBS MAY BE DUE!

MISSING WITHOUT TRACEby Judy Hagee

After what is known as the Bass Strait Incident we were asked by members of the media - & many others - whether or not we considered the Bass Strait to be another "Bermuda Triangle", since numerous ships and some aircraft have been lost in or near that area.

I don't believe it is another of these Bermuda Triangles but it is one of the roughest stretches of narrow water in the world. Ask any of the crew members of the Sydney to Hobart yachts which race each year and are very cautious when entering the cross winds and currents of the Bass Strait area.

In an article written for Saga, Oct. 1972, the late Ivan T. Sanderson states that Lloyds of London has kept tabs on world-wide shipping since the formal initiation of insurance as a business a few hundred years ago. Shipping insurance is now a world-wide enterprise and ship losses are analysed and pigeon-holed under six headings:-

- 1) Foundered, swamped or burst asunder due to sea alone.
- 2) Burned
- 3) Collided
- 4) Wrecked, on rocks, shores or underwater hazards
- 5) Missing and
- 6) Other Causes

"Missing" means disappearing without trace, (wreckage, bodies, etc) and without any distress calls or signals being picked up.

Between January 1961 to the end of 1970, Lloyds recorded 2,766 shipping losses, some wrecked or foundering and 70 listed under disappearing. The two largest of these disappeared near Bermuda - the area notorious for reports of missing ships and aeroplanes. Shipwrecks and disappearances were not all that unusual in the early days as there was little or no communication, but since the advent of aircraft, and especially since W.W.2, communications with base or shipping enroute to destinations have immensely improved. Earlier ships and aircraft would have disappeared probably without any mayday calls or signals of any kind, but since the war there have been quite a number of aircraft particularly, which have disappeared whilst in contact with base or some other vessel or craft.

The well-read Ufologist will be familiar with the December 5th, 1945, incident in the U.S. when 14 men in five Avenger torpedo bombers left Fort Lauderdale for a routine patrol. They were to fly 160 miles due east out over the Atlantic, then 40 miles north and back home to base. The patrol commenced at 2 pm and the crews were first heard from at 3.35 pm when it was clear they were in trouble. Their compasses had "gone awry" and they couldn't ascertain their bearings. Everything was "wrong"! At 4.25 pm the leader reported "We don't know where we are"; we think we must be 225 miles northeast of base" and that was the last heard from them. Within minutes a Martin Mariner seaplane with 13 men aboard, was despatched to search for the missing aircraft and within 15 minutes it too vanished.

The search operation was probably the largest in history to that time, - land, sea and air; it lasted about a week and covered thousands of miles without a trace of any of the aircraft ever being found. There have been many unusual happenings in the Bermuda Triangle, quite unexplainable beyond current standards: ships disappearing as well as aircraft, instruments going awry during agitation of the ocean and sudden fogs so that seamen become completely disorientated. However, some pilots and seamen have come through this odd and frightening experience only to sell their craft (either sea or air) on arrival on terra firma!

There are also other parts of this planet where strange happenings have occurred - The Marie-Celeste created early interest in ships afloat minus a crew, yet not showing any sign of any disturbance on board. In the 1960's a ketch called the Joyita was found floating in the Sea of Java without a crew - even the dog was missing - and the table was set for a meal. There appeared to be no reason for the mass evacuation of the vessel.

Judging by the large number of wrecks, along our southern coast, from west to the east, the small sailing and steam ships which came to this country in the very early days, apparently found our southern waters very difficult to negotiate. Our rugged coastline and strong southerly winds brought to grief many a vessel, some of them still at rest in their watery graves.

No! I don't believe the Bass Strait area to be another Bermuda Triangle. It may have had a few losses off in the dim dark past of early aircraft and fishing vessels, but it does not have the puzzling aspects of the B.T. which some researchers suggest may have something to do with ^{Magnetic} Electro/Effects. Because one pilot disappears during a spate of over fifty sighting reports - and a series of photos taken about 10 minutes prior to his report - it does not, to my mind, constitute a "Bermuda Triangle".

It has been said there are twelve of these mystery locations on the globe.

The "Devil's Sea" in the Western Pacific, between Japan and the Bonin Islands has been well known by the Japanese for centuries and was plotted by the U.S. Military planes during W.W.2. Checking these two areas on a "globe" Ivan Sanderson noted that both the Devil's Sea and the Bermuda Triangle were 36 degrees N. Shortly after making this discovery, something most unexpected occurred. Two submarines, one French, the other Israeli, disappeared in the Mediterranean and four small vessels vanished between the coast of Portugal, Morocco and the Island of Madeira, in fine weather.

Another of these areas came to light when some information regarding gold bullion being transported by military planes to Iran during W.W.II disappeared over Afghanistan. What was so intriguing was that on at least two of these cases, tribesmen apparently came across

the gold, but no part of any airplane was ever found. This became the fourth area.

What made Sanderson and his investigators so fascinated was that the newly found area from the West Mediterranean "lozenge" to Afghanistan to the Donin Sea came out at exactly 72 degree intervals. Also, from the West Mediterranean to the Bermuda Triangle was also exactly 72 degrees.

Realizing that 72 degrees is one fifth of a circle (360 degrees) and that they had made the discovery of four areas, was it possible there was a fifth and where would it fall? It should be to the North east of the Hawaiian Islands in the Northern Pacific.

After studying the Northern Hemisphere these researchers with their geographic, scientific and technological training, decided to take a look at the Southern Hemisphere. To their astonishment they discovered there were at least three of these "disappearance" areas in the Southern Hemisphere. One off the coastline of Argentina, one off the South East coast of South Africa and a third off the south east coast of Australia, namely the Tasman Sea.

So back to the geographic globe! They reversed the globes on their stands, so that the South Pole was at the top, then lightly traced the outlines of these areas to find that two were 72 degrees apart and both were on 36 degrees south latitude, while the third was 144 degrees from the nearest on either side. Well then, where were the missing two? One should have been in the east Indian Ocean while the other would be in the centre of the Great Oceanic area of the Southeast Pacific.

After much correspondence and verification of their findings, these two areas proved to be 36 degrees south and at 72 degrees east of the South African area and west of the Tasman Sea one.

These may be considered "disappearance" areas, but with a large number of aircraft and shipping covering most of these oceans, we have never heard of any of these experiencing the strange and frightening instances witnessed in the Bermuda Triangle.

Interesting and Intriguing.

* The Flying Saucer Conspiracy - Donald Keyhoe

* The 12 Devil's Graveyards Around the World - Ivan T. Sanderson,
for 'Saga'

October 1972

*** DON'T FORGET YOUR SUBS.

THIS COMPUTER AGE!

WILL MAN SURVIVE THE EVOLUTION OF TECHNOLOGY?

Excerpts for an article written for "The Australian" (22.5.84) by Frank Salter of Queensland's Griffith University.

WHEN I wrote my first position paper on this topic, two possible futures were explored, one in which humans do not figure, and another in which they are present but impotent victims of cosmic evolutionary forces.

Both futures have the same long term characteristics involving the colonisation of the galaxy and beyond.

This article summarises only the non-human scenario, an imaginative account of the growth and evolution of artificial intelligence in the long-term future.

Speculating on the distant future from a sociobiological and political perspective, I found myself intersecting some of the ideas of Freeman Dyson and John von Neumann, both mathematicians, and Adrian Berry, a futurologist.

It bears repeating that this is a speculative account. It makes no claim to certainty, but does raise plausible arguments which need to be examined and borne in mind by those involved in developing artificial intelligence.

Four predictions are presented as key stages in the evolution of intelligent machines and their spread throughout the universe.

Prediction one : Homo sapiens will be replaced as the dominant species by intelligent machines.

The debate over the potential of artificial intelligence is a major one in its own right, and the reader is advised to look into it himself.

If we accept as inevitable that machines will become more intelligent than people, how does this lead to the prediction of machines harming or subordinating humans?

For this step, we require only one extra premise: That ultimately one ultra-intelligent machine will be programmed with the overriding drive to reproduce itself, a "prime directive".

Prediction two : An evolutionary process will take place among machines leading to them colonising the solar system.

Freed of gravitational inhibitions, these machines will grow to immense sizes in their quest to reproduce themselves more efficiently and securely.

Prediction three : The stellar society of intelligent machines will become a gestalt intelligence, causing the whole solar system to act as a single organism.

Either all the machines would co-operate to build a huge central computer which would then feed back to them instructions on the optimum reproductive strategy to adopt, or a specialisation in function could be used to extend computing ability.

A vast co-operative effort could be undertaken to build more powerful intelligence by allocating to each machine subroutine tasks, all connected by electromagnetic communications.

Prediction Four : The galaxy will be colonised by Darwinistic von Neumann Machines.

What will be happening in the rest of the galaxy?

During the colonisation phase of our solar system the over-crowding of the Dyson Sphere and the exhaustion of raw materials will be foreseen and Darwinistic machines will set themselves, or produce offsprings capable of setting out to the nearest stars.

But within a relatively short time following the arrival of the first colonists, a "virgin" star will also be crowded, leading to further interstellar migration.

This process will continue throughout the galaxy.

A Gestalt Star, that is one where the orbiting Darwinistic machines co-operate by performing specialised tasks, should be able to achieve a slight acceleration by allowing a well defined patch of its solar radiation to escape, propelling it in the opposite direction.

The motion achieved could be used to move the sun through the densely packed core of the galaxy as a strategy to maximise the long term rate of colonisation of new stars.

When the galaxy is colonised the strategy of travelling to neighbouring galaxies will become rational, and it is likely that in Gestalt Stars there will exist the spacecraft capable of undertaking such a huge task.

It should be mentioned in passing that this could be a solution to the problem of how to arrest the expansion or collapse of the universe, or part of it.

Presumably if a star is mobile then so are galaxies. And in principle, if galaxies can be manoeuvred, then large parts of the universe should be able to be engineered according to some grand design.

Will Gestalt Stars choose universal collapse or the alternative entropy death if given the choice?

If they adopt a gambler's approach one would expect them to choose collapse since this holds out the chance of another beginning and the re-establishment of Darwinistic von Neumann Machines, while perpetual expansion seems to offer no hope whatsoever.

So far we have progressed to the stage of a galactic community comprised of dark Gestalt Stars all motivated to reproduce themselves and all similarly constituted as a result.

It will be a law bound community since it will be in the interest of all to participate in a co-operative economy allowing specialisation.

BOOK REVIEW...."ALIENS FROM OUTER SPACE" by Richard Garrett

Book No. E.250

1983 Piccolo

137 Pages

10 Chapters

Index/Contents

A small book compared to a standard book on U.F.O's, yet Richard Garrett seems to have collected most of the major UFO sightings and encounters.

Richard writes up the stories in a very simple way, disregarding details or major evidence. The book is really an up-to-date, and I mean 1983, listing of data that you, as the reader, would be able to follow up in better publication and detail once you have found something that interested you.

For example, the Frederic Valentich UFO encounter takes up about one page, when as you must realise, one could write a book on this topic alone!

In the 137 pages, Richard Garrett covers over 200 subjects; a good indication of the width and number of topics.

The 10 Chapters start with 'The Saucer' and follow on in order as 'Yesterday's Mysteries', 'The Washington Flap', 'A Matter for Investigation', 'Mystery over Britain', 'The Astonished Policeman', 'C.E.III', 'Friend or Foe', 'UFO's are still with us' and concludes with his best Chapter entitled 'Who on earth knows the truth'?

The book is not recommended to the real UFO researcher but to a novice as something to do for a few hours...it's worth a look.

JOHN AUCHETTL.
LIBRARIAN, VUFORS

MAGNESIUM STUDY CONTINUES...

Prior to the Citizens Against Secrecy Act VUFORS representatives were often asked if any pieces from a U.F.C. were ever found and analysed.

The following information was taken from the A.P.R.O. Bulletin - Vol. 31, No. 11.

What is probably the only UFO case involving testable physical residue is still under investigation by APRO. In 1957, at the beach at Ubatuba, Brazil, a small disc-shaped object was observed above the shore as it appeared to dive, then attempted to pull out of the dive, only to explode above the sands of the beach. One witness managed to retrieve some of the fragments, which were sent to a journalist, who wrote about them in his next column in the newspaper. This column was noticed by the late Dr. Clavo Fontes, APRO's Brazilian Representative at the time, and he visited

the journalist, obtained the fragments and began a careful analysis. After a detailed study by scientists at Brazilian government laboratories, some of the specimens were forwarded to APRO. Since then, the Condon Committee attempted to prove that the fragments were mundane magnesium instead of the unusually pure metal established by the Brazilians. They failed.

In the interim, APRO has had the documentation and some of the specimens in the hands of American scientists. Dr. Walter W. Walker, APRO's Consultant in Metallurgy, conducted tests which bolstered the Brazilian findings. Currently, using the most recent methods available, the material is under study by other top-ranking American scientists. One of these scientists has journeyed to Brazil to attempt to gather further documentation on the origin of the magnesium. To date, the fragments remain as mysterious as ever; no known technology could have produced such pure magnesium at the time they were retrieved. Nor can it be produced at present.

A.P.R.O.,
3910 East Kleindale Road,
Tucson,
Arizona. 85712. U.S.A.

**

ON THE UFO TRAIL

- by Paul Norman.

March 26th, 1984, marked the beginning of another interesting journey on the UFO Trail. After a 10½ hour flight from Perth, I was met at the Harare International Airport by Cynthia Hind, MUFON's Co-ordinator for Africa.

Cynthia, had previously sent an invitation to assist her on a joint lecture tour of the main cities of that country and I was eager to gain some first hand observation of the public attitude with regard to the problem of unidentified flying objects in that part of the world.

I first met Cynthia during the MUFON Symposium held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1981, and we again renewed our acquaintance at the BUFORA 1983 Congress held in the U.K. I was impressed with her reports of UFO incidents occurring on that continent.

Africa, like all other areas of the world, has an intriguing history of UFO cases which have occurred, from time to time, over the past several decades....such as the large, long, bullet-shaped UFO reported by Capt. Jack Bicknell, Pilot for East African Airways and his crew, flying near famous Kilimanjaro in February, 1951. The object was photographed by passengers aboard the aircraft and was described as having vertical bands similar to the object seen by Lionel Browning, at Cressey, Tasmania in October, 1960. Rev. Browning had been sceptical about UFO reports but stated it was no normal aircraft because it was descending below stalling speed. He did not make his report until a few days later because he thought people would think the story too fantastic to be the truth. It was only after other people reported the same phenomena that he and Mrs. Browning came forward.

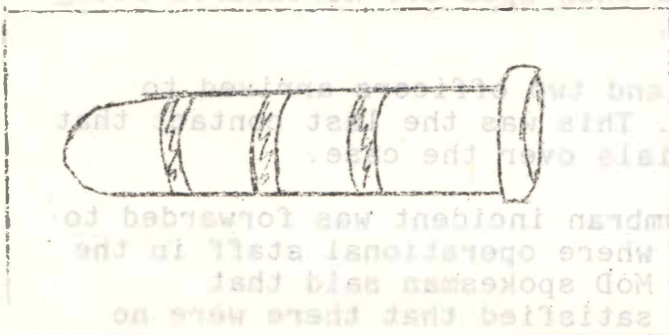
One of the first indications that official investigators were not in agreement with overall official policies concerning unidentified flying objects came to light during a meeting with the air force officer who investigated the Cressey, (Tas). encounter.

When we showed him a letter from R.A.A.F. headquarters concerning the incident, we were told that the letter differed altogether from the report he had submitted to the head office. The official debunking statement had attributed the sighting to reflections on scud type clouds. The investigating officer disagreed with this debunking statement! Years later, when Professor McDonald, an atmospheric scientist, visited Australia, and made a followup investigation of this case, he found from weather charts that the climatic conditions at that time made scud type clouds impossible!

Perhaps the most interesting activity now occurring in Africa, is the work being carried out by Cynthia Hind, who is interviewing people in communal lands who have seen the objects but have never read about them. One recent report concerns an encounter by forestry workers, where three humanoids in silver suits were reported. There is no word in their native language for silver. One witness had to describe the colour by showing her a silver coin.

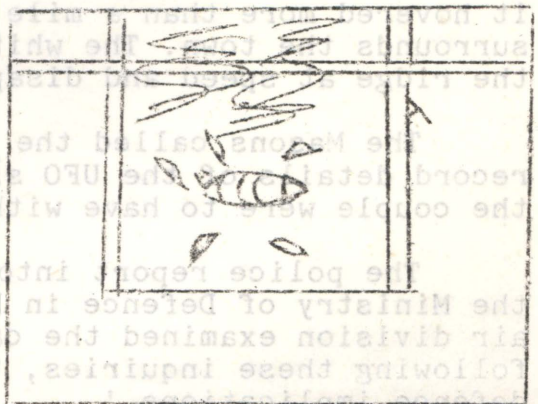
Judging from the number and nature of questions asked at public meetings in Harare, Bulawayo and Gweru, the interest in the UFO subject is very keen and a number of new cases were uncovered for followup.

My biggest surprise came when the captains of two Air Zimbabwe airliners invited me to the flight deck to discuss the Frederick Valentich disappearance. They had heard about the incident and were eager for first hand details of the sightings and circumstances surrounding that strange encounter of the greatest mystery in Australian aviation history.



February 19th 1951
Kenya, Africa.

UFO observed hovering above Mount Kilimanjaro, by East African Airways Pilot.



October 4th 1960.
Cressy, Tasmania.

UFO Observed by Rev. and Mrs. Lionel Browning through their kitchen window.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?.....TELL US.

BRITAIN SAYS:ITS OFFICIAL: THERE ARE U.F.O.'S

(Martin Bailey, London "OBSERVER" 4.3.84)

There ARE Unidentified Flying Objects. That's official; the Ministry of Defence has finally come clean.

Copies of 16 reports on sightings over Wales have been sent by the MoD to the British UFO Research Association.

It is only a small step forward for Whitehall - which stresses that there is no suggestion they come from outer space - it's a giant leap for the hitherto-ridiculed alien craft watchers.

Until now, the Government had always refused to release details of UFO incidents passed to it. Six years ago, the Earl of Clancarty - who founded the UFO group in the House of Lords - did launch a debate but then the government line was that it was not prepared to release information.

Now, following more pressure from the Lords, the MoD has finally relented. A ministry spokesman confirmed yesterday that the department was now willing 'to consider providing reports on specific incidents to serious inquirers.'

The Observer has been given a copy of the first list of 'sightings' and has looked into a typical incident which figures in the Ministry of Defence documents.

At 9 p.m. on 14 September, 1982, David Mason, a 32-year-old printer, was watching television when he saw a bright light from the window of his Cwmbran home. He called his wife Angela, and together they went outside into the back garden.

Mr. Mason said 'the light was as bright as the sun and about half the size of the moon.' The couple watched for 15 minutes as it hovered more than a mile away, just above a hill range that surrounds the town. The white light then sped off northwards along the ridge at speed and disappeared.

The Masons called the police and two officers arrived to record details of the UFO sighting. This was the last contact that the couple were to have with officials over the case.

The police report into the Cwmbran incident was forwarded to the Ministry of Defence in London, where operational staff in the air division examined the case. An MoD spokesman said that following these inquiries, "we are satisfied that there were no defence implications."

Mr. Mason says he was surprised not to have had any further inquiries from officials. 'I do not understand how the Ministry of Defence could have investigated the case without contacting me with further queries.'

The Cwbran sighting is typical of the hundreds of UFO reports which reach the Ministry of Defence every year. Some incidents are reported directly by members of the public, but most come via police, airport authorities and armed forces.

Only a proportion of total British sightings filter through officialdom and ultimately reach the MoD. The numbers fluctuate considerably, and between 1978 and 1983 they amounted yearly to 750, 550, 350, 600, 250 and 390.

Mrs. Jenny Randles, investigation director of the UFO research association, said that crucial information was still missing from the government reports. The final sections containing the results of the MoD's own investigations, had been excised.

The ministry says it is not concerned with what UFO's are - only to ensure that they do not have any 'defence implications.' In practice, this means that the main question which interests the MoD is whether they are hostile aircraft.

AUSTRALIA ECHOES!

U.F.O. HUNTS ARE HISTORY FOR RAAF

(Melbourne "Age" 3.5.84)

The air force is to stop chasing UFOs and little green men.

The Minister for Defence, Mr Scholes, announced yesterday that his department will no longer investigate what it euphemistically calls Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS) unless they have "defence or national security implications".

UAS with defence or national security implications are believed to be aircraft intruding on Australian air space from the north rather than flying saucers with aggressive intent.

In future, the RAAF will simply record sightings reported to them and refer the person who has made the sighting to organisations that research UFO's.

The number of UFO sightings reported to the air force peaked in the early 1960's and, for the past 10 years, it has investigated 120 to 150 sightings a year.

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Ed Note - The media invention of "little green men" has been used often to make the UFO subject appear foolish. I don't believe little green men have ever been reported and suggest that we (earthlings) are greener than the Ufonauts because we are still trying to achieve what they have managed centuries ago!

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SIGHTINGS.

20th May - 12.15 a.m.

A lady at Somerville, Victoria, observed two 'coffin-like' objects with rounded ends, hover above a paddock opposite her home. She watched for about 20 minutes, during which time one object flew away, but could still be seen, then the other followed it. After a while the two returned to the paddock. Both objects were similar, a humming noise and with rotating lights. This report is currently under investigation.

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STRANGE LIGHTS - UFO?

"3standard", Murray Bridge S.A.
14th June, 1984.

A Murray Bridge woman believes she saw a UFO in the eastern sky early last Friday night (8.6.84). She said on Tuesday she saw bright orange flashing lights about 3.15 when she got up to let her cat out.

'A shaft of beautiful orange light came down from the flashing lights while I watched, and after about four minutes, the object took a zig-zag path toward the west', she said. 'I could not see its shape, nor could I estimate how far away it was'. I know the times, because I glanced at the clock on the way out, and again on the back incident. I had been very interested in UFOs and delved into the subject, but had not been able to find any more information.

TIMESTYLE

Many UFO reports are taken very seriously

By FRANK CRANSTON

IT APPEARED off Bass Point, NSW, early in the morning on July 16, 1950 and stayed in sight for about one hour and 45 minutes.

To three people who reported "it", it appeared like two lights which kept circling and was moving from north-east to south-west.

"It" was not travelling very fast — just at an estimated speed of about 25 kilometres an hour. They did not all agree with that description, one believing that the lights were red and green and that at one point they were stationary for some time.

Just what "it" was was never satisfactorily settled but whatever "it" was "it" had the honour of being Australia's first officially recorded Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) or Flying Saucer as they were once known.

Despite common belief to the contrary, it was taken seriously and was advised to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence, which investigated it as best it could given the scanty information and the disparities in what was reported.

In his summary of observations, Mr O. H. Turner, of the Department of Defence, was still not satisfied and was somewhat scathing in his observations of the initial approach by the RAAF.

"If it is assumed that the report is genuine and that it is sufficiently accurate to warrant analysis one is aware of an incongruity in the description", he wrote. "On the one hand red and green lights that circle an area of about a mile in length for about 100 minutes are most unusual according to most UFO reports and far more indicative of an aeroplane, particularly as the red light is to port and the green to starboard."

"On the other hand the estimated time for one circuit gives a speed of only 15mph [miles per hour]. Further the

lights were reported to be stationary at one period for five minutes and that at no time was any noise of an aircraft heard. Civil and Air Force authorities were unaware of the presence of any aircraft.

"If an unauthorised aircraft were to be flying between 0150 and 0335 hours it is suggestive of subversive activities."

"For this reason alone further action should have been taken by EAHQ [Eastern Australia Area Headquarters]."

"If the report proved to be a hoax, litigation could have been invoked to deter future potential hoaxers".

With that sort of admonition in mind both EAHQ and the RAAF in particular began to take very seriously indeed the "Flying Saucer" reports which it has now been decided will be further probed only if some national-security interest is involved, the rest being referred to interested civil observers.

But at that time the Cold War was hotting up. People were asked to be on the alert for anything suspicious. The immediate thought was that perhaps somebody — obviously the Russians — might have developed some super aerial machine with which to spy on us or from which to rain death into our midst.

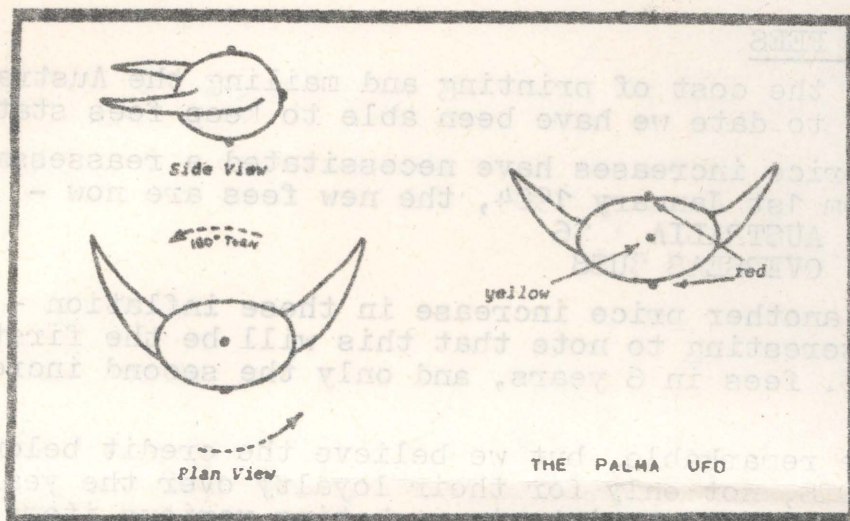
There was another school of thought as well that perhaps these just might be visitors from space though most serious-minded military observers put this thought to one side.

The first reports of a Flying Saucer had come from the US and they seemed to spawn their kind around the world as the advent of mass aviation and the war time development of long-range (for the time) rockets made people more aware of what went on overhead. It was natural that this interest would arise in Australia.

Back then, almost 35 years ago, space travel was still in the realms of

THE LAST LINES OF THE SIGHTING REPORT ON PAGE 13 SHOULD READ:—

'I know the times, because I glanced at the clock on the way out, and again when I went back inside.'
'I had been very interested in UFOs, and delved into the subject quite deeply, but, because I am a Christian, I gave it up some time ago.'



The illustration above is from a 1981 edition of 'UFO Research Australian Newsletter', used to show similarities between a sighting in far north Queensland in 1980, known as the Palma UFO, and one in Mexico in 1973, known as the Cocoyoc Incident. The descriptions tally to a marked degree.

Rogers and company and flying through the air was still as remote to most people as the possibility of walking on the moon. It was a world still very much of the edge of technological developments which would render blasé future generations who would not be totally astonished when men first did walk on the moon and when the "Brave New World", which had so recently been mightily fought for, seemed to be slipping away. Earth's leaders had failed to come up with the Utopia into which we all thought we had been moving. Perhaps it was from outer space that we might expect the improvement.

The next report to make Mr Turner's 1954 summary of sightings was not until November 29, 1950 this time from

Queensland and NSW. This one turned up at 7.10pm, lasted only eight or 10 seconds, was a green-blue light trailing flame and appeared to disintegrate as the reporters observed it. But this time there were more reliable observers, Captain Herman and First Officer Flynn plying their airliner off Nambour and Captain Boyd of the Citizen Military Forces in Sydney. This, though there were some doubts, was ascribed as being most probably a meteor, or possibly two meteors, the issue being further confused by a similar report from Victoria the following night.

The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence summary of its next investigation was on February 2, 1951, when two witnesses at Condamine, Queensland,

being made apparently on the "log or short telegraph pole" from Kingaroy, Queensland, on September 9, 1953.

But the observers were becoming keener-eyed. On June 5, 1954 an East Dandenong, near Melbourne, sighting described a "rotating disc with a windowed canopy, 3 wheels, 3 ports etc" glowing yellow, about 12 metres in diameter and making a "noise like a motor bike also ticking".

By 1960 the investigation of the Unusual Aerial Sightings, as they were by then called in official quarters, had become a skilled if time-consuming art. Nor was the RAAF prepared to consume even further time by arguing with people about its solutions.

"The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by the Department of Air, Canberra, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject", the file noted. By that time there was a well-developed "plot" thesis and the belief in some quarters that officialdom was "covering up" information.

Thus a "spherical, silvery object elevation 80 degrees-65 degrees over Canberra, ACT" on February 1, 1960, was written off as an "astronomical" phenomenon while the "slow-moving cigar-shaped object similar to aircraft — bright orange rear portion, rest dull grey" was attributed to a TAA Viscount VII-TVG.

"Orange-coloured balls", "blue-grey objects", "long white glowing object flaming tail buzzed train", "dark glinting object" and the rest were attributed mostly to astronomical sightings and some to aircraft.

Even the RAAF itself got involved. From Darwin on Christmas Eve, 1963 it reported "marks on negative of photo

taken at RAAF, Darwin" which was put down to a static charge on the paper during camera loading.

As satellites began to orbit the earth they added their mite to the mass of reports where for a while they vied with meteorological balloons as the instigators of reports. Aircraft continued to be another source of material.

One sighting on June 16, 1969 from Melbourne was put down to "aircraft and imagination".

Throughout the saga there have been a fair number of reports simply put down as inexplicable but usually on the grounds of incomplete or tardy information.

Birds, lightning, space debris, planets, and temperature inversions have been among the explanations for the hundreds and hundreds of sightings investigated. Even the RAAF itself does not have the full total.

described "eight rockets" which had the speed of a tracer bullet, trailed an exhaust, made a "loud swish" and disappeared over the horizon.

That one was the first to be formally designated "UFO".

Most of the "glowing light" phenomena of various colours were put down as probable meteors but things took on a more serious turn on September 27, 1952, when from the then-secret weapons testing station at Woomera, South Australia, came the report of a "light grey cigar" labelled "UFO?" and from the same source on October 8 a radar echo which was attributed as an "ionised cloud".

The sightings came and whizzed and flashed and disappeared but the Woomera observations, obviously the most worrying of them all, continued to come in, "UFO" being the description given the "white oval light-detected by doppler" detected on July 24, 1953.

It must have been galling for the Woomera observer to be told of his sighting a week later that the "white round objects" which he had observed high up with his binoculars at 10.30am was a cloud of thistles.

The reports poured in, the more interesting making Mr Turner's summary an October 15, 1953 sighting being confirmed as the tail light of a TAA airliner and another on January 9, 1954 to the planet Jupiter.

"Exploding fire, smoke" (no interpretation), "mushroom" (UFO?), "silver square" (balloon with tin reflector), another "mushroom" (UFO, is not a hoax) and "silver oval" (UFO?) earning their place in the DAFI files for posterity.

The "two black saucers joined by a span" which disappeared over a hill at St Morris, South Australia, on January 17, 1954 earned a UFO label, no decision

But there have been others, particularly in northern Australia, which have been assessed as quite probably the incursions of drug runners and in fact some have been caught. And the closure of the RAAF version of the USAF "Blue Book" does not signify that it is not interested any longer in receiving the reports. It will accept them and will still welcome them but those which do not appear to have a direct impact on national security will not be further investigated.

It has been an exhausting task and a relatively thankless one. Many of the reporters have been unsatisfied with the explanations despite the magnitude of the effort which has gone into it all.

It has been a long task and in many ways an interesting if not particularly rewarding one. The files are copious and the detail which has gone into the project will now be diverted to what is perceived to be areas of more productive defence interest.

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION FEES

Over the past six years the cost of printing and mailing the Australian Bulletin has soared but to date we have been able to keep fees static.

Unfortunately, recent price increases have necessitated a reassessment of the position and from 1st January 1984, the new fees are now -

AUSTRALIA \$6
OVERSEAS \$US8

Whilst nobody welcomes another price increase in these inflation-ridden times, it is interesting to note that this will be the first increase of V.U.F.O.R.S. fees in 6 years, and only the second increase in 19 years.

This in itself is quite remarkable, but we believe the credit belongs to the members of VUFORS, not only for their loyalty over the years, but also their support when the Society is marketing various items.

Publications such as the Australian Flying Saucer Review Annual have been very popular and sales of Society windcheaters, T-shirts, car stickers and cloth badges have been most encouraging. The modest profits from these items have helped V.U.F.O.R.S. to keep membership fees at a nominal level and contributed to the success of our Society.

Clive Yates, Treasurer.

WINDCHEATERS AND T-SHIRTS

SOME LUCKY MEMBERS ARE ALREADY WEARING THEIR T-SHIRTS & WINDCHEATERS

T-SHIRTS ARE WHITE WITH V.U.F.O.R.S. EMBLEM ON THE LEFT CHEST

WINDCHEATERS ARE NAVY WITH CLOTH BADGE STITCHED ON LEFT SIDE

COST OF T-SHIRT IS \$7.50

POST PER T-SHIRT - VICTORIA 90c; INTERSTATE \$1.00

COST OF WINDCHEATERS:

CHILDREN'S	-	SIZE 24-32	\$13.00
ADULTS	-	" 34-40	\$15.75
ADULTS	-	" 42-46	\$16.90

POST - VICTORIA \$1.30; INTERSTATE \$1.50

PLEASE NOTE: FOR ORDERS OF FIVE OR MORE GARMENTS 10% DISCOUNT APPLIES.

ORDERS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN AT GENERAL MEETINGS OR PICKED UP FROM COMMITTEE PERSON'S HOUSES THEREBY SAVING POSTAGE.

REMEMBER: EVERY GARMENT SOLD BENEFITS YOUR SOCIETY.....

GARMENTS ARE NOW IN STOCK - PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST 10 DAYS FOR DELIVERY.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE TO SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL. WE HAVE IN THE PAST HAD MONEY GO ASTRAY IN THE MAIL. PLEASE SEND CHEQUES OR MONEY ORDERS.

Please endeavour to support your Society by attending functions arranged and/or purchasing T/shirts, Windcheaters, sew-on badges and stickers. Purchasers do not necessarily need to be members.

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